

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

File 866

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Rowlandsville Iron Bridge over the Octoraro

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rowlandsville

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Cecil

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☒ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☒ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rowlandsville Iron Bridge c. 1890-1900 is located in the small town of Rowlandsville on the Octorara Creek. The bridge is a single span Pratt through truss. The span is approximately seventy five feet across.

It is one of several along the Octorara Creek and although it has lost its date plack the bridge is identical to the dated ones around the turn of the 20th century.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

CE-884

PERIOD**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES**BUILDER/ARCHITECT****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This bridge, unlike most of the iron bridges in the area, receives more traffic and is probably susceptible to removal. This iron bridge helps to create the late 19th century and early 20th century atmosphere of the area.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paul B. Touart Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Cecil County Committee

DATE

2/5/79

STREET & NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

398-7568

CITY OR TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland 21921

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

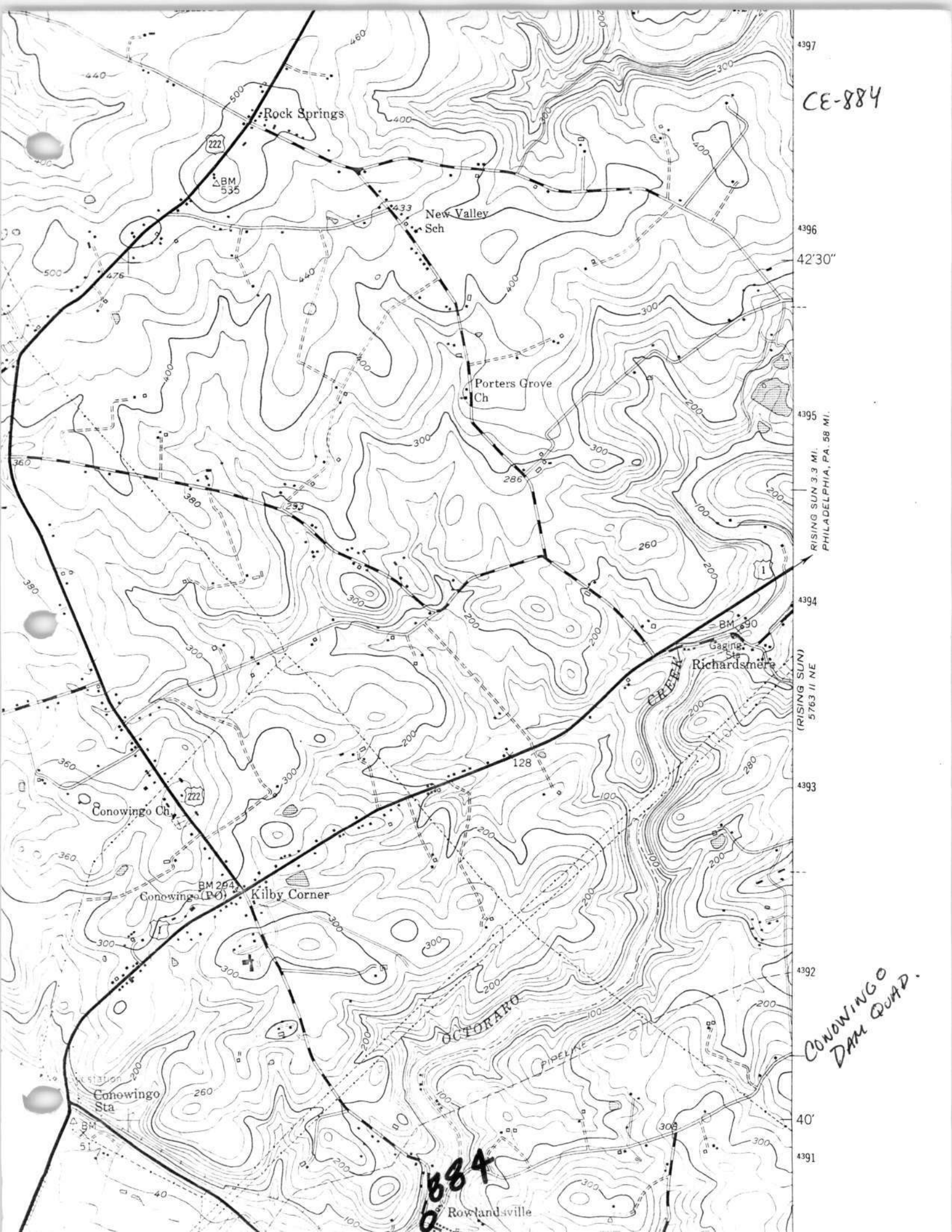
Rowlandsville

CE-42, CE-789, ^{CE-881}CE-882, CE-883, CE-884, CE-885, CE-886, CE-887

Rowlandsville derives its name from the Rowland family who have lived along the banks of the Octoraro Creek since their first purchase of a tract of land called "Glass House" in 1749. A number of factors have contributed to the economic and community development of the town. Grist and saw mills have operated on both the Octoraro Creek and its tributary Bason's Run (Beeson's Run) in the 18th Century along with the manufacture of iron in the very late 18th Century and most of the 19th Century. Nineteenth Century continuation of grain processing remained under the name of Davis Christy and Co. The McCullough Iron Company continued the manufacture of iron in mid century after buying the property in 1859. Extensive remains of the factory attest to the importance this iron manufacturer played in boosting Rowlandsville to more than a grist mill community. Like many industrial complexes, mill housing was constructed to house company workers and their families. Three sturdy granite and fieldstone structures (CE-886) once housed iron company employees along the east bank of the Octoraro Creek.

Residential and commercial structures were built on both sides of the Octoraro Creek which are now connected by a late 19th Century Pratt Through Truss Bridge. Steep hillsides restricted extensive town development but did not contain construction to the relatively few flat plots of ground. Frame structures with elevated and exposed basements compensated for the drastic change in slope. (CE-882) Rowlandsville was also blessed with the presence of a town railroad depot for the Phila. Balt. Central R.R. This

asset undoubtedly provided Rowlandsville the exposure it needed to remain vital through the 19th and early 20th Centuries. Morocoto Paper Co. bought the iron mill complex in 1892 and produced roofing paper into the early 20th Century, until the operation burned and left the structures in ruin. Trains no longer pass through Rowlandsville and like many of its kind, the town is a quiet residential community. Two elevated train bridges were built south of Rowlandsville to cross the Octoraro. The first one was built by A and P Roberts Company at Pencoyd Iron Works in 1901. (CE-881) It is a single lane reinforced iron wall bridge with supporting granite piers that runs through the mammoth reinforced concrete arches of the higher two lane Penn Central Bridge (CE-883). These two structures, although dramatically placed, do not bring commerce to Rowlandsville only over it.



CE-884

4396
42'30"

4395
RISING SUN 3.3 MI.
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 58 MI.

4394
(RISING SUN)
5763 II NE

4393

4392

40'

4391

CONOWINGO
DAM QUAD.

6884

Rowlandville



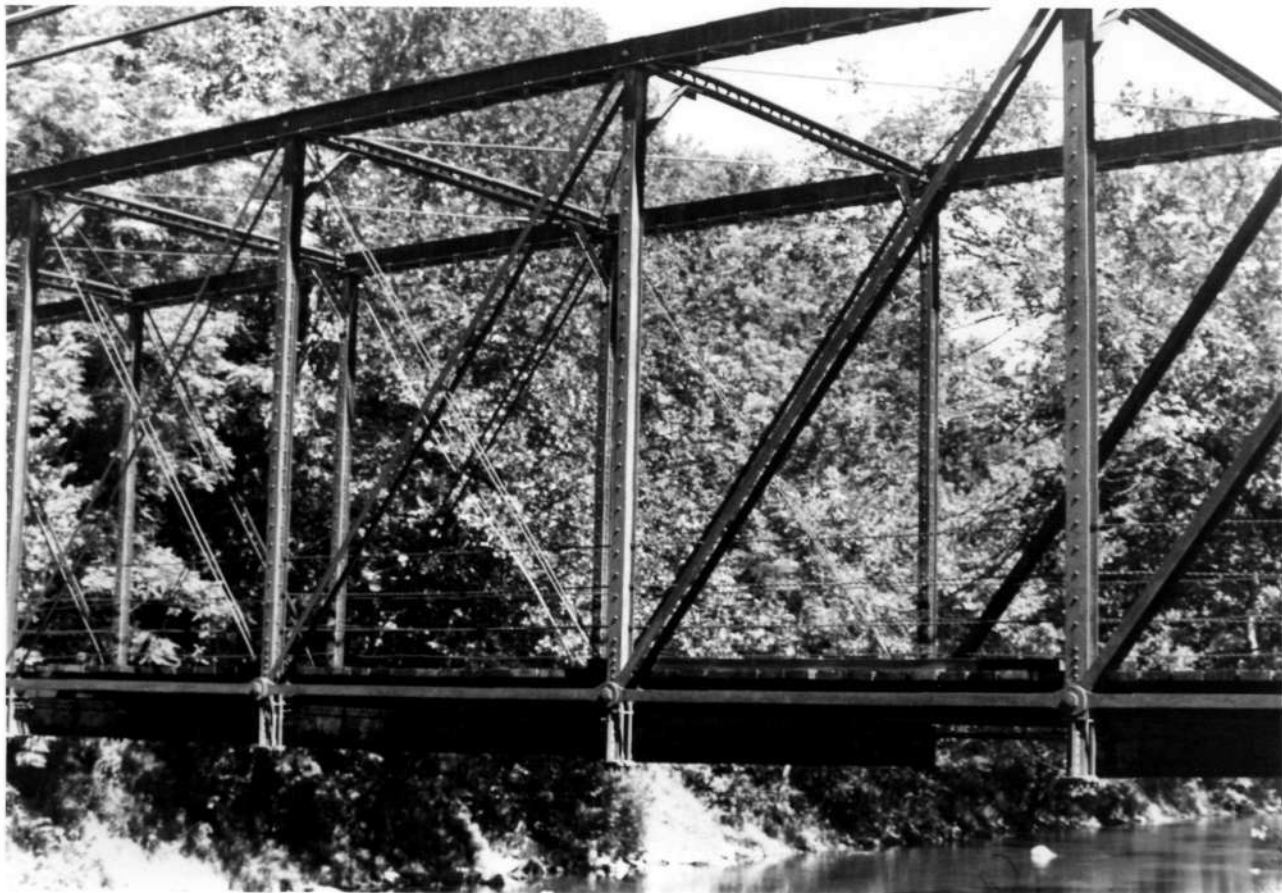
ROWLANDSVILLE, 1 ROW BRIDGE CE 884

ROWLANDSVILLE, MD.

EAST ELEVATION

6/78

PBT



CE- 884

ROWLANDSVILLE IRON BRIDGE

ROWLANDSVILLE, MD.

~~WAS~~ SOUTHEAST ELEV.

6/78 PBT